

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 976
By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Albert A. Kelley of
Covington, former State Representative.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were deeply saddened to hear of the death of Albert A. Kelley, who formerly served the people of West Tennessee as a member of the House of Representatives of the Tennessee General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, throughout his life of public service, Mr. Kelley performed his elected duties with remarkable dexterity and unprecedented devotion, and his efforts brought substantial benefits to this great State; and

WHEREAS, he was a prominent and highly influential figure in the political, social, and civic lives of his community, always working diligently and expending the necessary effort to understand the opposing sides of complex issues as an elected official; and

WHEREAS, born on January 31, 1913, the son of the late Albert and Laura Luttrell Kelley, he attended Union University on a football scholarship; having learned the immense value of education, he made the noble decision to devote his professional life to teaching after graduating in 1935; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kelley served with acumen and alacrity for thirty-six years with the Tipton County School System, earning the respect and admiration of his colleagues and students; for twenty-seven years, he served with great distinction as the Principal of Holmes School; and

WHEREAS, he was an extremely talented and compassionate educator who worked assiduously to motivate his students to reach their full potential; he truly served as an inspiration to all, and his friendship and counsel were highly valued by those who are fortunate enough to know him; and

WHEREAS, having earned an unsurpassed reputation for civic concern and inspired leadership while gaining the respect and admiration of his community, Albert Kelley was elected to the House of Representatives and served as a member from 1972-1974; and

WHEREAS, Representative Kelley was a dynamic and aggressive participant in the legislative process and earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues for his outstanding contributions to the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, a tireless proponent of progress, he was a champion for his constituents' needs, and his actions precipitated the superb quality of life that is enjoyed by the people of his district and indeed, all Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, Albert A. Kelley was a leader of singular ability, and he utilized his time and talents for the benefit of his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; he leaves behind a wonderful legacy in Tipton County, where he had served as Director of the Farm Bureau, Chairman of the Tipton County Historical Society, a member of the Tipton County Court for twenty-four years, and as a member of the Tipton County Election Commission; and

WHEREAS, he was also renowned for his immense love for the young people of his community and was a well respected high school football official for many years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kelley's personal and professional excellence had been recognized with numerous awards and honors, including the 1981 Union University Alumni Association Distinguished Service Award, the Tipton County Republican Party Service Award, and having a scholarship named in his honor at Union University; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, Mr. Kelley expressed and practiced his faith as a member of Garland Baptist Church, where he taught the Men's Bible Class and served as Sunday School Superintendent and Chairman of the Board of Deacons for 25 years; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Mr. Kelley was most appreciative of the great love and companionship he shared with his dear wife, Aileen White Kelley; he was deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he will also be missed dearly by his daughter, Theta K. Rone; brother, Bill Kelley; sisters, Alma Patterson and Jeanette Seton; grandchildren, Stephen K. Rone and Deanna Nabors; and five great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Albert A. Kelley leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of a true Tennessee legend and exceptional public servant, constant friend, and remarkable human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Albert A. Kelley, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction as one of the finest leaders and public servants in Tennessee's rich history.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Kelley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy